

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 144

By Daniel

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mary Jane Kirkham on her selection as the 2016-2017 Central High School Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Kirkham is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Kirkham has been selected as the 2016-2017 Central High School Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, holding Tennessee secondary certifications in biology, general science, psychology, and sociology, Ms. Kirkham currently teaches Physical Science, Environmental Science, Biology I, and Flex Literacy RTI at Central High School in Knoxville; she also mentors a new teacher and leads a professional learning community for environmental science; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, previously the National Honor Society and Beta Club sponsor, Mary Jane Kirkham has taught in the Freshman Academy and Sophomore Academy at Central High School; she coordinated the University of Tennessee Pre-Collegiate Scholars Program at Fulton High School and Central High School; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Ms. Kirkham received the Lucille E. Hill Award Honorable Mention at Reach Them To Teach Them 2014, the 2011 Making a

Difference Award for more than twenty-five years of service to the Knox County Science Department, and the Water Quality Forum Award for Adopt-A-Watershed from 1997 through 2005; she was the Fulton High School Teacher of the Year for 1993-1994, 2001-2002, and 2003-2004; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Kirkham is an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jane Kirkham truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest precepts of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mary Jane Kirkham on being chosen as the 2016-2017 Central High School Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.